

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2024**



Soaring High

Bald Eagles in the Preserves

Gardening for Moths

Summer Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



No matter who I meet along the trails, I'm always excited to talk with them about what they love about DuPage forest preserves. Over the past few years in particular I've noticed quite a lot of common sentiments.

Not surprisingly, people enjoy their forest preserves because they offer great opportunities for recreation and leisure, whether hiking through the woods, picnicking in a scenic grove, or fishing along a peaceful lake. Our 26,000 acres provide countless ways to connect with nature that are close to home, and we've all heard in the news how important that is. Time in nature is linked to improved physical and mental well-being and can improve memory, attention, creativity, and quality of sleep.

I know it's important, too, that people feel safe when visiting the preserves. That's why year-round, the Forest Preserve District's force of 25 sworn police officers patrol on foot and by bicycle, ATV, and squad car, assisting visitors while enforcing federal, state, and county laws as well as the District's General Use Regulation Ordinance.

But the forest preserves provide more than safe places where you can get a break from concrete and asphalt. They contribute to cleaner air and water and help with flood control, benefits we can all gain whether we're frequent visitors or not. Forest preserves hold rainwater, allowing it to slowly soak into roots and seep into soils that filter out chemicals before they can reach waterways or underground aquifers. Plants absorb pollutants like carbon dioxide and particulate matter through tiny openings in their leaves and use them as nutrients or store them in their tissues.

Of course these open spaces — all preserved for you — are vital to native wildlife. It's a top reason why the Forest Preserve District works throughout the year to improve and maintain the county's high-quality woodlands, prairies, wetlands, and waterways.

No matter how you enjoy your DuPage forest preserves this summer, I'll see you there!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Summer 2024, Vol. 61, No. 3



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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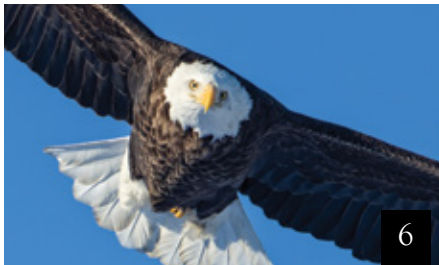
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On the cover: Bald eagle [davidevison/stock.adobe.com](https://www.stock.adobe.com/stock/1234567890/davidevason/Bald%20eagle.html)



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OUR *Mission*

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens



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news & notes



COLLECTIONS *Corner*

At the heart of every gristmill are the millstones, the two large round slabs of rock used to grind grain. Millstones can be marble, granite, or sandstone, but those at the Graue Mill and Museum are made of a particularly sturdy and porous material called French buhrstone, a sedimentary rock high in silica. French buhrstone was in high demand in 19th century mills because of its durability and alleged ability to grind whiter wheat flour.

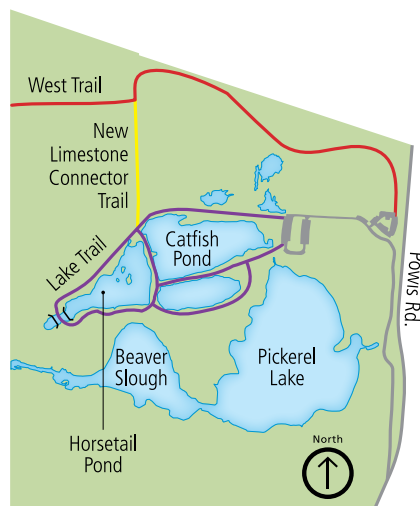
At Graue Mill, grain enters a large wooden funnel called a “hopper” and falls through the “eye” of the two stones. As the top stone turns, the grain moves between the two, where it’s sliced and crushed. It’s ground into smaller and smaller bits until it falls out from the edges into a bin.

The stones have a repeating pattern of grooves called “harps,” which slice the bran from the outside of the grain and guide the grist toward the outer edge of the stones. The large grooves are called “furrows”; the smaller, “feathering” or “cracking.” The flat areas in between, called “lands,” crush the rest of the grain into meal. In the photo above, you can see a millstone dresser working on the harps on one of the stones at Graue Mill.

CONNECTOR TRAIL UPGRADE AT PRATT’S

Work is underway at Pratt’s Wayne Woods to convert the 0.3-mile connector trail between the West and Lake trails from turf to crushed limestone. The project, which received federal Recreational Trails Program grant funding through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will be completed this summer.

The trail is north of Catfish and Horsetail ponds and is used extensively by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and youth-group campers. Access is sometimes restricted, though, during regular turf maintenance or after heavy rains, when horse traffic can create ruts in the wet grass. The 10-foot-wide limestone trail will improve year-round use for all visitors.



FLUSH RESTROOMS COMING TO FOUR PRESERVES

Construction has started on new flush restrooms at Pratt’s Wayne Woods, Mallard Lake, Wood Dale Grove, and Waterfall Glen. The Waterfall Glen building will be near the new parking lot by the Rocky Glen area. The other three will be near existing picnic shelters and will replace pit latrines or portable toilets that were unpopular with visitors.

Construction will include the installation of well water, septic, and electrical systems; a concrete sidewalk (where needed); and a three-stall building kit. At Pratt’s Wayne Woods, crews will also pave some accessible parking space.

The District expects the installations to be complete in October.

The District’s 2019 Master Plan identified flush washrooms as a certified project to improve the level of service for the public and reduce long-term operational costs at preserves that have high visitation numbers and nearby special-use features.

LIVE and on Demand

Can’t make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under “About Us” and “Our Board.” Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.



THANK YOU for Being a Friend

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501(c)(3) that engages the community in philanthropy to advance the mission and support the purpose of the Forest Preserve District. We are grateful to those who donated \$500 or more to the Friends or the Forest Preserve District during the first quarter of 2024.

Gift of \$25,000 or More

Elaine Libovicz

Gifts of \$2,000 – \$3,499

Kevin Condon

Edward Jones — Financial Advisor

Mike Dyer

Gifts of \$500 – \$1,999

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Marlen V. Schuett

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To learn about opportunities to donate or partner with the Friends, contact Partnership & Philanthropy at 630-871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org, or visit dupageforest.org/friends.

FROM CRAYFISH COME DRAGONFLIES

Forest Preserve District ecologists at its Urban Stream Research Center in Blackwell recently released 25 Great Plains mudbugs into the wild. These native crayfish were collected as eggs and reared at the center for the past year as a part of the District’s program to raise federally endangered Hine’s emerald dragonflies.

The crayfish build and live in complex underground burrows with caverns and winding tunnels that can be over 6 feet deep and reach below the water table. The burrows are necessary habitat for Hine’s emerald dragonflies, which, like other dragonflies, spend the first part of their lives underwater as larvae. For reasons ecologists still don’t understand, Hine’s larvae only live in water at the bottoms of burrows created by Great Plains mudbugs.



PADDLE AWAY AT HERRICK

Weekend visitors to Herrick Lake can now explore the water via one of two paddleboats. Six paddleboats have been available at Silver Lake at Blackwell since 2021.

Rentals for DuPage residents and nonresidents are \$20 per hour with a valid government-issued ID and cash or credit card. (Rowboat or one-person kayak rentals are \$15 per hour; canoes or two-person kayaks are \$18 per hour.)

Rentals are available at Herrick Lake Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day weekend plus Independence Day and Labor Day 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. At Blackwell you can rent weekends through September and weekdays through Labor Day 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. At both locations, rentals end at 5 p.m.

VISITOR SERVICES *Saturday Phone Hours*

Now through Aug. 24 (except July 6), Visitor Services is available on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer your calls, emails, and online chats. The office won’t be open for in-person visits, but you’ll still get answers to all those questions you missed during the week. Get in touch at 630-933-7248 or permits@dupageforest.org, or use our chat box at dupageforest.org.





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Soaring High

Bald Eagles in DuPage County

by **BRIAN KRASKIEWICZ**, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES

Just 30 short years ago, a bald eagle was a rare summer sight in the Chicagoland area. Today, bald eagles are soaring in our skies — and are calling DuPage forest preserves home year-round.

On June 20, 1782, the Second Continental Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, which features a bald eagle. Five years later, the bald eagle became the nation's official symbol. Based on historical accounts, modern ornithologists estimate that at that time there were upward of 100,000 breeding pairs in today's contiguous 48 states. Since then, though, bald eagles have faced many pressures.

As a result of habitat loss and illegal hunting in particular, by 1918 bald eagles were no longer found nesting in Illinois. After World War II, the use of DDT, an insecticide favored for controlling mosquitoes and agricultural pests, had a wider, more devastating effect. DDT washed away into local waterways, where it was absorbed by fish. Eagles typically hunt for fish, so the chemical eventually found its way into the birds. The more contaminated fish the eagles ate, the more

toxins accumulated in their bodies. In females, this resulted in thin eggshells, which incubating adults easily cracked, meaning fewer hatchlings. By 1963, researchers recorded only 417 breeding pairs in the contiguous 48 states. (Bald eagles are

The National Eagle Repository

Eagles are sacred to many Native American tribes. For that reason, since the 1970s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has collected bald and golden eagle feathers as well as any remains from across the country to convey to tribes for religious and cultural ceremonies. If the Forest Preserve District treats an eagle at its wildlife conservation center, it sends any feathers that drop, or any birds that do not survive, to the national repository.



Stephan/stock.adobe.com



Christopher/stock-adobe.com

▲ Female and male bald eagles start off mottled brown. They don't gain their white feathers until they're 4 or 5 years old.

American or Bald?

In 1766 the bald eagle received its scientific name, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, meaning "white-headed sea eagle." So why do we call them "bald" or "American" eagles? The original common name, "bald eagle," may likely derive from an older definition of the English word *balde*, which meant "white" and not "hairless." "Bald eagle" is recorded as far back as the 1680s, when it was attributed to the bird's white head. "American eagle" became common in the U.S. after the country adopted the bird as its national symbol.



vannew/stock-adobe.com

not found in Hawaii, and Alaska has consistently maintained a healthy bald eagle population.)

Early legislation such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 protected bald eagles from illegal hunting and actions that could harm the birds or their nests. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, which evolved from the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, further benefited bald eagles when they were added to the endangered list in 1978 in most states. But perhaps the most important policy decision was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ban of DDT in 1972.

Throughout the later half of the 20th century, many organizations conducted bald eagle reintroduction programs, raising eaglets in captivity to give them a head start before releasing them into the wild, and worked to conserve and protect habitat. Here in DuPage, although not specifically for the sole sake of bald eagles, Forest Preserve District efforts to preserve and create healthy ecosystems have resulted in the return of nesting and hunting bald eagles.

Today, both the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (which protects all native birds) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act continue to make it illegal to disturb a bald eagle nest (including getting too close to one) or to possess any part of an eagle or its nest or eggs. Collectively, actions over the past century have boosted populations nationwide. In 1995 the bald eagle was reclassified as threatened in all contiguous 48 states, and by 2007, when there were 9,789 breeding pairs, it was removed from the endangered species list altogether. In 2019, researchers recorded 71,467 nesting pairs.

Here in DuPage, bald eagles visit several forest preserves year-round. Female bald eagles are larger than males, but plumagewise, they look identical. As juveniles, they're brown with various degrees of white mottling, depending on their age. Only when they become sexually mature at 4 to 5 years old do they acquire their distinctive white head and tail feathers. In addition to fish, they will eat waterfowl, small mammals, and carrion. Often they can be spotted harassing ospreys in an effort to force the ospreys to drop their prey.



▲ A bald eagle snags a meal at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve.

Eagles build large nests in trees near rivers or lakes from November to February. The female lays one to three eggs in February or March, and both parents take turns incubating for about a month. After hatching, the chicks, which are called "eaglets," stay in the nest for another two to three months.

In winter, Illinois becomes home to an influx of eagles from the north, which gather along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers as well as smaller waterways such as the DuPage and Fox rivers and Salt Creek. Waters in the northern U.S. and Canada completely freeze, so the eagles need to migrate south to find open water and fish.

The recovery of the bald eagle is a great wildlife success story, a result of how governmental conservation agencies, private groups, and individual fans of wildlife can make a remarkable difference. So the next time you're in a DuPage forest preserve and see a bird overhead with a white head and tail, you'll know the story. •

summer calendar



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July

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Make a Botanical-Themed Glass Dish
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 3 Volunteer Restoration Workday 5 Fresh Air Friday
Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begins
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides 6 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday 7 Volunteer Restoration Workday 8 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 12 Hoofprints Through History
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
The Wonderful World of Watercolors Six-Part Class Begins 13 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Phenology Journal Hike
Summertime Second Saturday Family Program
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 14 Haiku Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Teen Art Open Studio Six-Part Class Begins 16 Basic Tree ID
Volunteer Restoration Workday 18 The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
Volunteer Restoration Workday 19 A Day in Nature and Creativity: The Plant World
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 20 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday 24 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 26 Moonlight Moth Walk
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides 27 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday 28 Volunteer Restoration Workday 29 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 30 Wildflower ID |
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August

- 2** Fresh Air Friday
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 3** Archery: Open House
Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10** Archery: All Ages
Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Nature Study Explorers
Phenology Journal Hike
Summertime Second Saturday
Family Program
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Archery: Adults
- 14** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Waycar Wednesday
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 15** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 16** A Day in Nature and Creativity:
Insects
- 17** Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Gentlemen Farmers of DuPage
Kayaking: Basics
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 21** Archery: Games for Adults
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 22** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Phenology Journal Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 25** Kayaking: Paddle With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 29** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Bird Walk
- 31** Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday

September

- 1** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Landscapes in Glass
- 4** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 5** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Bird Walk
Fresh Air Friday
- 7** Phenology Journal Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Women's Outdoor Adventure Day
- 9** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10** Nature Scroll Sketching 14-Part
Class Begins
Plant ID
- 11** Evening Hike Club
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 12** A Night for Nature
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Bird Walk
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 15** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Archery: All Ages
- 18** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 19** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 20** Bird Walk
A Day in Nature and Creativity:
Birds
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 21** Phenology Journal Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Kayaking: Paddle With a Ranger
Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Bird Walk
- 28** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Archery: Games
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery



OLMEC TRAILS CULTURE & LEGACY: NATURE AND ART MEET IN DUPAGE FOREST PRESERVES

This summer, the Forest Preserve District is cohosting an international art exhibit led by the College of DuPage Public Art Project, the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage. Fullersburg Woods, Kline Creek Farm, St. James Farm, and Mayslake Peabody Estate will all be displaying 4-foot-tall sculptures representing the ancient Mesoamerican Olmec culture, each uniquely painted by U.S. and international artists. The original stone heads, crafted 1400 – 400 BCE, are recognized as important examples of pre-Columbian art. For details, visit dupageforest.org.



Plants & Wildlife

Basic Tree ID 25356

Discover how to look at trees in a new and engaging way! Learn basic ID tips, and find out how to differentiate between plant families and how families are connected. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 16	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Bird Walk 25251

Enjoy birding camaraderie, and learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds on a casual 2-mile guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 30	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Marsh
Sept. 6	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Sept. 13	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	York Woods
Sept. 20	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Sept. 27	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake



Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

Shop online for native trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage conditions, and then pick up your plants at St. James Farm! (Plants must be ordered in advance; there will not be any in-person sales at the farm.)

Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Starting Aug. 1 at 8 a.m.

Review the catalog and order online at dupageforest.org/fall-tree-shrub-sale.

Orders will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last and are subject to nursery availability.

Sept. 20 & 21

Pick up your trees and shrubs at St. James Farm.

Moonlight Moth Walk 25298

Join us on National Moth Week for a guided nighttime walk through the woods and prairie to discover how the Forest Preserve District uses a variety of monitoring techniques to investigate moth biodiversity. You'll not only learn about moth conservation but also contribute to a citizen science project! Ages 12 and up, under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 26	9 – 10:30 p.m.	Danada/HQ
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Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall 25249

Bring your family on this signs-of-fall scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of the preserve. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 22	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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A Night for Nature

Join us as we raise funds for the Friends of the Forest Preserve District 501(c)(3) to benefit wildlife and wild areas in DuPage County. This annual event includes fellowship, food and drinks, music, a silent auction, and wagon rides. Ages 21 and up. \$100 per person. Tickets available at dupageforest.org/friends. Questions? Call 630-871-6400.

Sept. 12	5 – 8:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Phenology Journal Hike 25360

Learn how scientists use phenology, the study of seasonal changes, to track how climate change affects the environment. Then find ways to create your own nature journal of plants, animals, and other observations. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

July 13	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
Aug. 10 & 24	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
Sept. 7 & 21	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods

Plant ID 25358

Learn how to observe and identify plants through the lens of botanical family groups and their characteristics, and gain a deeper connection to the preserve and the plants that live there. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Sept. 10	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Springbrook
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How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.



Wednesday Wilderness Walk 25367

Take a guided nature hike, observing the seasons, flora, and fauna in the lesser-known but greatly diverse Lincoln Marsh. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea as we discuss some of nature's wonders before we start the walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

Aug. 14, 21 & 28	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
Sept. 4, 11 & 18	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh

Wildflower ID 25359

Learn basic wildflower ID skills through the lens of botanical family groups and their characteristics. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

July 30	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada
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Ways to Play

Archery

Adults 25262

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 13	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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All Ages 25259

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 10	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 16	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Games 25264

Compete in different archery games enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 29	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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Save the Date!

Danada Equestrian Center

FALL FESTIVAL AT DANADA

The Forest Preserve District's largest event returns again for two days! Festivities will include equestrian performances and demonstrations in the outdoor arena, wagon rides, children's activities and entertainment, barn tours, and more. All ages. Admission and parking are free, but there are small fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 12 & 13

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

St. James Farm

Exercise and school your horse at this historic venue in July and August. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-918-1524.

Riding Lessons 25379

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn valuable horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons or individual four-pack lessons. Ages 12 and up. \$44 – \$350 per DuPage County resident; \$56 – \$425 per nonresident. Register online or call 630-668-6012.

summer calendar



Games for Adults 25263

Compete in different archery games enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 21 10 a.m. – Noon Blackwell

Open House

Learn about equipment, try some of the basics with a certified instructor, and talk to representatives from local archery groups at this fun family event. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Aug. 3 9 a.m. – Noon Blackwell

The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Challenge your friends and neighbors and show off your knowledge as you compete for prizes during this friendly quiz game featuring categories to test your familiarity with music, animals, geography, history, and more! Come with a team of up to seven, or have us help you find one. Ages 18 and up. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

July 18 7 – 8:30 p.m. Oak Meadows
Aug. 15 7 – 8:30 p.m. Oak Meadows
Sept. 19 7 – 8:30 p.m. Oak Meadows

Kayaking

Basics 25270

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 18 10 a.m. – Noon Mallard Lake

Paddle With a Ranger 25265

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent one for \$20 per person. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 25 10 a.m. – Noon West Branch
Sept. 22 10 a.m. – Noon Warrenville Grove

Women's Outdoor Adventure Day 25240

Join us on a fun-filled day of outdoor activities for women led by women, including a guided nature hike, geocaching, paddling, and archery. Bring your own lunch and water and be prepared for a full day outdoors! Ages 18 and up. \$30 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 8 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Herrick Lake

Health & Well-Being

Evening Hike Club 25234

Boost your outdoor wellness in a friendly group setting on a quick-paced 3-to-5-mile guided hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 4 6 – 7:30 p.m. Danada
Sept. 11 6 – 7:30 p.m. Herrick Lake
Sept. 18 6 – 7:30 p.m. St. James Farm
Sept. 25 6 – 7:30 p.m. Blackwell

Fresh Air Friday 25242

Enjoy a relaxing hour of mindful walking and immersive nature-based ways to tune in to the present on a 1-mile walk on crushed limestone and grass trails. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 5 9 – 10 a.m. St. James Farm
Aug. 2 9 – 10 a.m. St. James Farm
Sept. 6 Noon – 1 p.m. St. James Farm

Heritage

Gentlemen Farmers of DuPage 25250

Learn about gentlemen farmers Francis S. Peabody of Mayslake Farms, Arthur A. Cuten of Sunny Acres Farm, and Dan and Ada Rice of Danada Farm and how their country estates became forest preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 18 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

Hoofprints Through History 25248

Join us on a 1-mile walk in the hoofprints of history on a tour of the farm's historic equestrian areas. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 12 10 – 11:15 a.m. St. James Farm

How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.



Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour

Discover the history of the Franciscans who operated retreats on the property from the late 1920s to the 1990s. The tour is indoors but will end at the Portiuncula Chapel if the weather permits. Ages 18 and up. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

July 6, 13, 20 & 27	10 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	10 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake

Nature Study Explorers

Create memories with your friends and family as you explore nature through an 1890s lens. Take a step back in time, and learn from the Nature Study movement of the late Victorian era with different seasonal activities. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

Aug. 10	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy a 30-minute ride while learning about the forest preserve's heritage and natural areas. Rides begin at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

July 5, 12, 19 & 26	1 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
Aug. 2 & 9	1 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm

Waycar Wednesday

Walk through our 1906 waycar (also called a caboose), and hear how it was first used on the rails and then by Brooks McCormick after its retirement. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

Aug. 14	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Registration not required for these programs, which are for all ages (under 18 with an adult). Questions? Call 630-876-5900, or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

HOUSE TOUR: BACK TO SCHOOL

Take a guided tour that focuses on going to school and education in the 1890s.

Aug. 15 – Sept. 30 (except Sept. 2)

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

HOUSE TOUR: FARM POWER

Join a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on nonelectric tools and machines used to help with household chores.

July 1 – Aug. 12 (except July 4)

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

STORY TIME

Bring the family and rest under the shade of a tree while a costumed interpreter shares lessons from the world of stories with different historic tales each week.

June 3 – Aug. 26

Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

TIME TO GO CHORIN'

Help with different historical household or barnyard chores around the farm. It can get messy, so make sure to wear shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

July 1 – Aug. 26

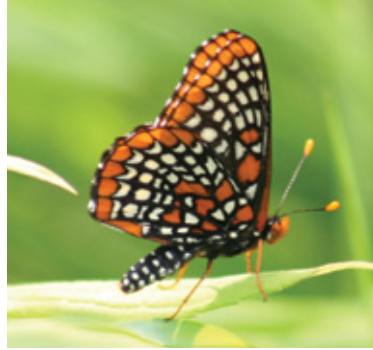
Mondays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

July 11 – Aug. 29

Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.



summer calendar



Nature Art & Culture

A Day in Nature and Creativity

Spend a day connecting the present moment with the beauty of summer all around us, contemplating our state of mind and awakening a new awareness of nature's subtle changes. Creative moments of art journaling, sketching, and working with our hands at a gentle pace will allow for relaxation, enjoyment, and an opportunity to savor the experience. Ages 18 and up. \$100 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Birds 25126

Sept. 20 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake

Insects 25127

Aug. 16 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake

The Plant World 25128

July 19 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake

Haiku Walk 25246

Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk; then create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 14 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

Landscapes in Glass 25125

Create your own fused glass tray with an image from nature, and then pick up your kiln-fired project the following week. You will receive instruction from design through lay-up. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$135 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Sept. 3 5 – 8 p.m. Mayslake

Make a Botanical-Themed Glass Dish 25123

Receive instruction from design through lay-up of a 5-inch dish, and then pick up your kiln-fired project the following week. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 1 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Mayslake

Nature Scroll Sketching 14-Part Class 25375

Local artist Laura Lein-Svencner will lead you through a meditative project where you'll fashion a scroll using inks, dyes, paints, and mixed fibers and found items from nature and home. Seasonal changes and personal experiences will inform your work and become part of the design. Ages 18 and up. \$350 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Sept. 10 – Dec. 10 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake
Tuesdays

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 25307

Discuss great reads with fellow book fans at these enriching meetings! In July we'll cover *Innocence of Father Brown* by G.K. Chesterton; in August, *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?* by Caitlin Doughty; and in September, *The Miracle at Assisi Hill* by Pat Camalliere. Titles subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 5, Aug. 2 & 10 – 11:15 a.m. Mayslake
Sept. 6

Art and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

AT HOME WITH NATURE HOUSE TOUR

Learn some of the surprising history of Mayslake Hall, the 1921 home of F.S. Peabody and a landmark and architectural gem that has been surrounded by an oasis of nature for over 100 years. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

July 1 – Sept. 30 (except July 4 & Sept. 2)

Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NATURE DOWN THE ROAD

This fotoMuses exhibit began as an artistic response to COVID and the challenges to find the beauty of nature. Join us on July 17 at 6 p.m. for a two-hour reception, where you'll meet the artists as you enjoy signature mocktails. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

July 2 – Aug. 24 (except July 4)

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Summertime Second Saturday Family Program

Bring the family for a fun new program! In July we'll talk about medieval symbols as we make small shields and do a needlework activity together. In August we'll horse around with equine-themed crafts. (Sadly, we won't have real horses.) Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

July 13	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 10	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Teen Art Open Studio Six-Part Class 25130

Under the guidance of professional artist Rebecca Banasiak, draw and paint from specimens and photographs, or continue a project you've already started. Bring your own supplies (no oil paints, please), although some supplemental media will be available if you'd like to work with something new. Ages 13 – 19. \$200 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 15 – Aug. 26	4 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
Mondays Except Aug. 5		

The Wonderful World of Watercolors Six-Part Class 25129

Improve your skills and learn new techniques for observing the plants, flowers, and landscapes around us. Using museum-quality specimens and photography as references, work with watercolor, gouache, and water-based inks with an emphasis on basic painting methods, color layering, and spatial dynamics. Basic drawing and painting experience is recommended but not required. Plan for some outdoor activity, weather permitting. Ages 18 and up. \$200 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 12 – Aug. 23	4 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
Fridays Except Aug. 16		

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 25357

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

Churchill Woods

July 6, 7, 27 & 28	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug. 3, 4, 24, 25 & 31	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 28 & 29	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Churchill Glacial Ridge

July 20 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Aug. 10 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Sept. 14 & 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial

Oldfield Oaks

July 3 & 16	8 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Aug. 7 & 22	8 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Sept. 4 & 18	9 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks

Springbrook Prairie

Sept. 21 & 29	9 – 11 a.m.	Springbrook
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West Chicago Prairie

July 27	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Aug. 31	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Sept. 28	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie

West DuPage Woods Elsen's Hill

July 14 & 18	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods
Aug. 17, 18, 22, 25 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods
Sept. 5, 8, 12, 15, 21, 22, 26 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	W. DuPage Woods

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 25335

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

July 1	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
July 8, 13, 19, 24 & 29	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Aug. 3, 9, 14, 19, 24 & 28	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 4, 9, 14, 20, 25 & 30	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

◀ Adult large Toylpe moth

Gardening for Moths

© The Bug Whisperer

by **GLENN PERRICONE**, ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Don't get me wrong. I think butterflies are great. But can we take a minute to show a little love for moths? Illinois boasts 150 butterfly species, but the state's 1,850 species of moths often go unnoticed, likely as most are nocturnal or blend into their surroundings.

Butterflies and moths belong to the insect order Lepidoptera, but they do have some differences, most notably their antennae. Butterflies' are club-tipped; moths' are comblike or feathery. Both insects, though, have "scales" on

their bodies, which give them color, keep them warm and dry, and improve aerodynamics. Both are also vital pollinators, although recent research suggests moths may be more efficient pollinators than bees or butterflies. Unfortunately, both face the same threats, ranging from degraded or lost habitat, especially in prairies and wetlands, to humans' use of insecticides. Luckily, the steps we can take to make our yards more friendly for butterflies can help our local moths, too.

Avoiding the use of insecticides is a good place to start, but incorporating certain native plants into a landscape can also benefit Lepidoptera. Like butterflies, moths lay their eggs on plants, and some lay them on "host" plants, ones their larvae (aka caterpillars) prefer to eat. For example, black-eyed Susan and yellow coneflower host wavy-lined emerald moth caterpillars; Clymene moth caterpillars feed on common boneset. Verbena moths lay their eggs on blue and hoary vervains, and snout moths use wild bergamot and spotted beebalm. Virginia creeper hosts numerous types of sphinx moths, and big-leaved and other asters host Isabella tiger moths, whose caterpillars are better known as "woolly bears." Culver's root, coneflowers, and goldenrods are associated with species-specific borer moths, and milkweeds are for more than just monarchs. They host milkweed tussock moths as well.

Nectar from native flowers sustains several beneficial adult garden insects, moths included. Moths, such as the clearwing



▲ A giant leopard moth rests on a wall during a controlled moth survey.



© William Van Hennesen



© nolleschneider



© argillente



© temporarium

▲ Native plants with white or pale flowers can attract moths to your nighttime garden. Common boneset in particular (top) is a vital host plant for Clymene moths (bottom).

▲ Milkweed isn't just for monarchs. Milkweed tussock moths (top) lay their eggs on milkweed, the only plant their caterpillars (bottom) will eat.

hummingbird moth, that are active during the day feed on species like bergamot and cardinal flower. For the majority that are nocturnal, white or pale-colored flowers that best reflect moonlight – Culver's root, common boneset, wild hyacinth, white snakeroot, or pale-spiked lobelia among others – make easy-to-find targets.

One of the greatest moth-approved plant additions to a yard, though, is a native tree. One large one can house thousands of caterpillars. Oaks alone host upward of 500 species of Lepidoptera. In the moth world, hummingbird clearwing, cecropia, and large *Tolyte* caterpillars all feed on black cherry and American plum. *Polyphemus*, *luna*, and prominent larvae eat hickories and oaks.

But homeowners can perhaps help moths the most by limiting the use of outside lighting. Most moths have a strange draw to artificial light, a phenomenon known as "positive phototaxis." The reason is unclear, but ecologists have a few theories. It may be because these moths naturally navigate with their backs to the brightest light source to orient themselves as they fly. For eons, this source was the sky, a reliable, fixed feature. When encountering an artificial light, this draw causes the moths to fly around it in circles. Other scientists posit positive phototaxis may be caused by certain light frequencies that disorient moths or by ultraviolet light, which may excite females into releasing pheromones, which

attract other moths to the source.

Whatever the reason, when moths become entranced by an artificial light, they circle the source until they become weary, unnecessarily expending energy and becoming more susceptible to predators like bats and birds. Homeowners can make things easier for moths by putting porch and garage lights on timers or motion sensors to limit excessive lighting.

In some cases, a moth's attraction to artificial light can help study moth biodiversity. At Danada, Forest Preserve District researchers aimed a sodium vapor light at a wall to intentionally attract moths. When the moths landed on the wall, the researchers could identify the species, which helped catalog which moths lived in the preserve. At other sites, they experimented with "moth mash," a sweet, strong-smelling thick paste of banana, brown sugar, and spoiled beer that's applied to bait stations on trees to attract the insects. With these two techniques alone, the Forest Preserve District has recorded hundreds of different species of moths, information shared on the iNaturalist app to help others better understand northern Illinois' geographic and seasonal moth distributions.

So this summer, when you work in your yard to attract butterflies, as you begin to see more, know you're helping our local moths, too. You may not see them directly (most moths are nocturnal after all), but remember that what's good for one is good for them all! •

directory



HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services

630-933-7248

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturdays June – Aug. 24 (except July 6)

Phone, email, and online chat only

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Partnership & Philanthropy

Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

FOREST PRESERVE *Hours*

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

PARTNER *Sites*

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388

EDUCATION *Centers*

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturdays & Sundays

Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

DUPAGE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Animal Admittance

Thursday – Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesdays 9 a.m. – Noon

Phone Hours

Daily 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visitor Center and Outdoor Exhibit Trail

The visitor center will be closed until a new building opens in 2024. The outdoor exhibit trail is permanently closed. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

3800 York Road • Oak Brook
630-850-8112

Open mid-April – mid-November

Wednesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

KLING CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Closed Sundays

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office and Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

GOLF *Courses*

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

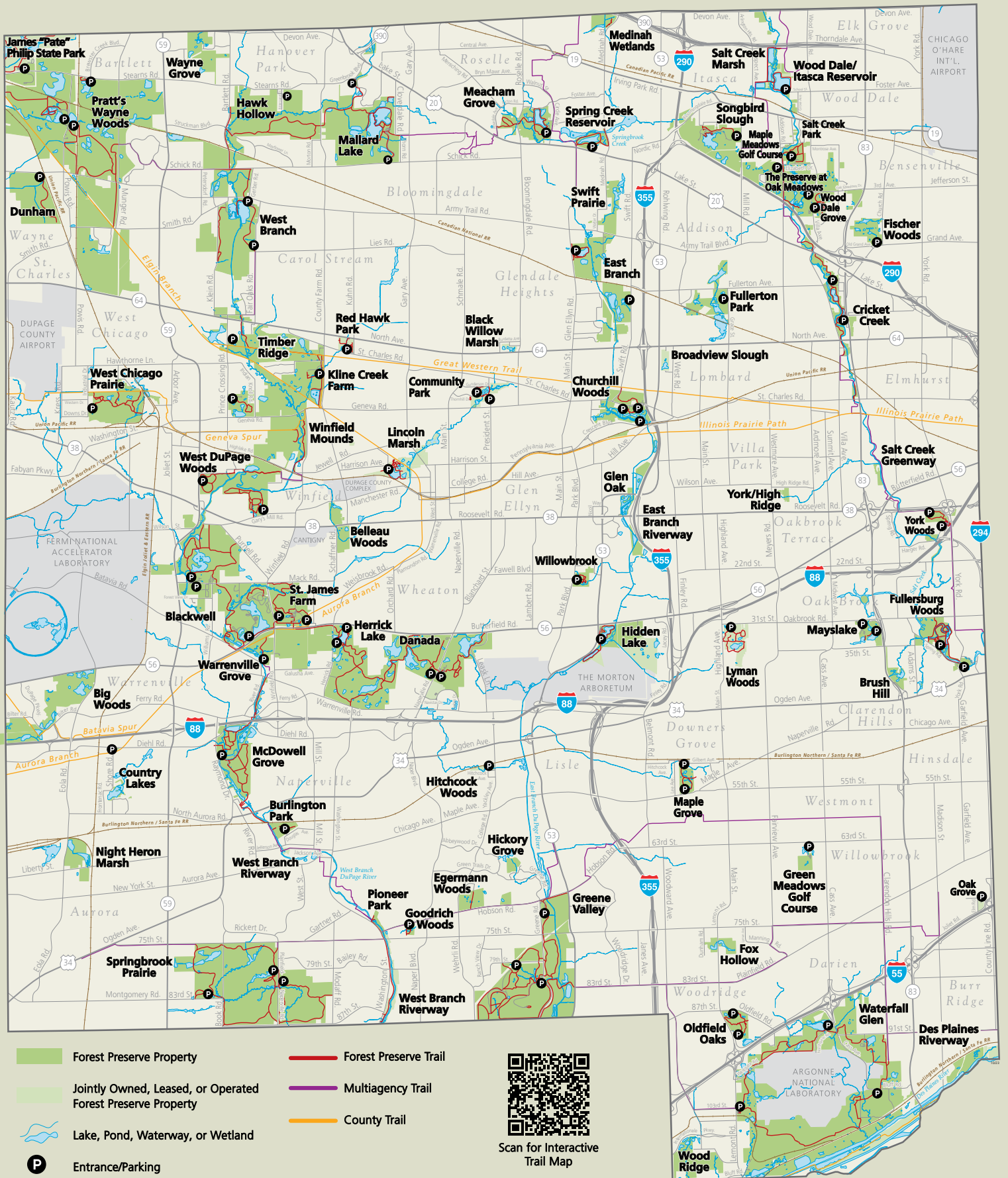
272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-871-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks prior to attending a registration-based program.





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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Wheaton, IL 60189

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2024**

A Night FOR Nature



A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • SEPT. 12 • 5 – 8:30 P.M.
ST. JAMES FARM FOREST PRESERVE
25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville

Join us for fellowship, food and drinks, music, a silent auction, and wagon rides. Our annual event supports the restoration of habitat and the preservation of wildlife in DuPage forest preserves. Ages 21 and up.

Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at dupageforest.org/friends.

Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.


Duck Race

A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • SEPT. 5 • 10 A.M.
ST. JAMES FARM FOREST PRESERVE

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville

Purchase a rubber duck for a chance to win \$500, and watch it race along Spring Brook!

\$25 per duck; \$100 for five. Purchase at dupageforest.org/friends.
Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.